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# Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) – West

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*RADP-West personnel work with farmers in Farah Center District to establish a Pistachio Orchard Demonstration Training Center; 12May16*

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# Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) - West

## May Monthly Report

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Name of Subcontractors:  
Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in  
Afghanistan (AREA)  
Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA)  
Equal Access (EA)  
Services International LLC (SIL)  
Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF)

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS.....	4
I. PROJECT OVERVIEW .....	6
I.1 Program Description .....	6
I.2 Geographic Coverage.....	6
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	7
2.1 Summary of Key Accomplishments .....	7
3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.....	11
3.1 Wheat Value Chain Programming.....	11
Major Activities Planned for Wheat Value Chain Programming Next Month .....	12
3.2 High Value Crops Value Chain Programming.....	12
Major Activities Planned for HVC Value Chain Programming Next Month.....	17
3.3 Livestock Value Chain Programming.....	18
Major Activities Planned for Livestock Value Chain Programming Next Month.....	21
3.4 Enabling Environment Programming.....	23
Major Activities Planned for Enabling Environment Programming Next Month .....	25
3.5 Cross-Cutting Themes.....	26
3.5.1 Gender and Nutrition Programming.....	26
Major Activities Planned for Gender and Nutrition Next Month.....	27
3.5.2 Grants Programming.....	27
Major Activities Planned for Grants Programming Next Month.....	28
4. PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION .....	28
4.1 USAID and non-USAID Funded Projects .....	28
4.2 Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.....	28
5. ANNEXES .....	28
5.1 May 2016 Beneficiaries.....	28
5.2 May 2016 Monthly JPEG Photos.....	28

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

APPF	Afghan Public Protection Force
AREA	Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan
B2B	Business-to-Business
CCHF	Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever
CHA	Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
CLIN	Contract Line Item Number
CO	Contracting Officer
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DTC	Demonstration Training Center
EA	Equal Access
FEG	Farmer Extension Group
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
GAALO	Green Afghanistan Agriculture and Livestock Organization
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practices
HVC	High Value Crops
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KIP	Key Implementing Partner
LFEW	Local Female Extension Worker
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
PMU	Program Management Unit
RDASO	Rural Development Associate Services Organization
SHG	Self-Help Group
SIL	Services International LLC
SOW	Scope of Work

USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
WSAWDO	Welfare and Support Afghan Women Disable Organization

# I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

## I.1 Program Description

USAID awarded the five-year Regional Agricultural Development Program - West (RADP-West) to Chemonics International Inc. in August 2014. RADP-West is working in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) in order to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in 13 targeted districts within Herat, Farah, and Badghis Provinces. The project's specific focus is to support MAIL in improving the productivity and profitability of targeted value chains within the Wheat, High Value Crops (HVC), and Livestock value chains. The purpose of this effort is to further the development of sustainable agriculture, which will support the consolidation of licit economies, fuel economic growth, and provide alternatives to poppy cultivation. In addition, the project's Enabling Environment Department is designed to support MAIL in its efforts to adopt longer term improvements in national agricultural policy and regulatory development. Chemonics implements RADP-West with the support of Key Implementing Partners (KIPs). These KIPs include: Agency For Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA), Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA), International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)<sup>1</sup> and Equal Access. The table below outlines RADP-West KIP's geographic coverage and primary responsibilities:

**Table 1: RADP-West KIP Coverage Areas and Responsibilities**

KIP	Geographic Coverage	Key Responsibilities
AREA	Badghis	Wheat & High Value Crop Production
DCA	Herat, Badghis, Farah	Livestock Value Chain Programming
ICARDA	Farah	Wheat & High Value Crop Production
Equal Access	Herat, Badghis, Farah	Communications Programming

RADP-West is built upon the fundamental premise that sustainable agricultural development will support the consolidation of licit economies, and is designed to support MAIL in promoting investments that will lead to sustained long-term increases in farmer incomes and private sector growth. The project is built around four primary programming components, consisting of: CLIN 1- Wheat Value Chain; CLIN 2- HVC Value Chain; CLIN 3- Livestock Value Chain; and CLIN 4- Enabling Environment. Together, these four programming components work as an integrated whole within the provinces and target districts outlined below.

## I.2 Geographic Coverage

**Table 2: RADP-West Target Provinces and Districts**

Province	Districts
Herat	Guzara, Karukh, Injil, Koshk, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand
Badghis	Muqur-1 <sup>2</sup> , Ab Kamari, Qala-I-Naw, Qadis
Farah	Anar Dara, Farah, Pusht Rod

<sup>1</sup> ICARDA was notified during the month of June that the subcontract would no longer move forward.

<sup>2</sup> Muqur district in Badghis province is referred to as 'Muqur-1' in USAID's MTM capture tool and ArcGIS. RADP-West will refer to this district throughout this report as 'Muqur.'

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the month of May, RADP-West continued Wheat, HVC, Livestock, Enabling Environment, and Gender and Nutrition activities across selected districts within Herat, Farah, and Badghis Provinces. Through targeted trainings, assessments, and capacity building, RADP-West established support for existing MAIL programming and set the stage for providing farmers with means for increased household incomes.

On May 31, 2016, RADP-West received a Termination for Convenience Notification from USAID. As such, the planned activities for each section in this report have been modified to reflect phase-out activities as discussed with USAID.

### 2.1 Summary of Key Accomplishments

#### ***Wheat Production and Value Chain Programming***

- Conducted wheat harvest/post-harvest training for a total of 210 male wheat farmer beneficiaries in Injil (90) and Karukh Districts (120) of Herat Province and for 112 male wheat farmer beneficiaries in the Qadis (70) and Muqur (42) Districts of Badghis Province. Training in Herat Province was conducted by RADP-West/Chemonics staff and training in Badghis Province was conducted by AREA.
- Coordinated with the Herat Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL) and the Shaikhul Islam Seed Company to conduct preliminary inspections of 27 foundation wheat plots in the Sale Abad village of Injil District in Herat Province.
- Conducted an assessment of the Barakat Hariwa Flour Mill Company in the Herat Industrial Park (Guzara District) to identify areas for potential RADP-West support and gauge the company's interest in purchasing surplus certified and foundation wheat seed from RADP-West beneficiary farmers.
- Conducted Wheat Post-Harvest Training for 42 women farmer beneficiaries in the Qadis (21) and Muqur (21) Districts of Badghis Province. The training was conducted in anticipation of the June/July Wheat Harvest, and in consideration of the critical role played by women in post-harvest activities in Badghis Province. AREA conducted this training.

#### ***High Value Crops Production and Value Chain Programming***

- Monitored the distribution of tomato and eggplant seedlings to 196 male farmers in the Karukh District of Herat Province.
- Conducted inspections of 150 vegetable plots in Herat Province and recorded the GPS locations of each in Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, and Koshk Districts. AREA also conducted inspections of cultivated vegetable plots in Badghis Province, inspecting 33 plots in Qadis, Qala-I-Naw, and Ab Kamari Districts.
- The Green Afghanistan Agriculture and Livestock Organization (GAALO) conducted training for 723 male farmers in the Injil (207), Guzara (208), Karukh (215), Pashtun Zarghun (33), Koshk (30), and Shindand (30) Districts of Herat Province on horticulture management practices, including irrigation, weed control, soil enrichment, compost preparation and fertilizer application. GAALO conducted the same training for 21 female farmers in Injil District and 20 female farmers in Guzara District.
- Coordinated with the Herat DAIL Department in the establishment of ten Vegetable (Tomato) Demonstration Training Centers (DTCs) in nine villages of Karukh District in Herat Province during the month of May.
- Finalized the selection of saplings for the budding of 2,620 pistachio rootstocks in Herat Province and 500 pistachio rootstocks in Badghis Province.
- Coordinated with the Farah and Badghis DAIL Departments in the establishment of 20 Orchard (Pistachio) DTCs in two villages of Farah Center District, six villages in Qala-I-Naw



District, four villages in Qadis District, six villages in Ab Kamari District, and one village in Muqur District during the month of May.

- Dynamic Vision conducted training for 446 male farmers in the Injil (175), Guzara (221), and Pashtun Zarghun (50) Districts of Herat Province on orchard management practices, including irrigation, weed control, soil enrichment, compost preparation, and fertilizer application. Dynamic Vision conducted the same training for 30 female farmers in Injil District.
- AREA conducted training for 82 male farmers in the Qadis (42) and Ab Kamari (40) Districts of Herat Province on a range of orchard management practices including orchard establishment, cultivation of certified saplings, integrated pest management (IPM), water management, and improved harvest and post-harvest techniques.
- Dynamic Vision conducted training for 535 male farmers in the Injil (251), Guzara (174), and Pashtun Zarghun (110) Districts of Herat Province on vineyard management practices, including proper fertilization and irrigation, cluster constricting, and trellising. Dynamic Vision conducted the same training for 71 female farmers in Injil District and 24 female farmers in Guzara District.
- AREA conducted training for 21 male farmers in the Muqur District of Badghis Province on a range of vineyard management practices, including vineyard establishment management, cultivation of certified vines, IPM, water management, and improved harvest and post-harvest techniques.
- AREA conducted training for 21 female farmers on improved techniques for high value crops in the Dai Zangi village of Ab Kamari District in Badghis Province.
- AREA conducted nutrition and food security awareness training for 20 female beneficiaries from the Salam By village of Qala-I-Naw District in Badghis Province.

#### ***Livestock Production and Value Chain Programming***

- Continued capacity development support and monitoring activities for Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) Paravets, Local Female Extension Workers (LFEWs), Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs), and Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- Conducted a five-day DAIL Extension Worker Training for 13 male DAIL staff from Herat and Badghis Provinces; the training took place at the DCA Training Center in Herat.
- Conducted 15 FEG sessions for male and female livestock farmers in the Guzara, Karukh, and Koshk Districts of Herat Province, and in the Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, and Ab Kamari Districts of Badghis Province.
- Conducted a five-day training course for 30 male SHG members in the Qadis District of Badghis Province.
- Conducted four, one-day record-keeping trainings in Injil and Koshk Districts (Herat Province) and Qadis District (Badghis Province) for 106 male and 23 female SHG members.
- Collected the livestock product sales records from 119 male and 227 female livestock farmers for further consolidation and reporting against RADP-West's sales indicators.
- Conducted assessments of two villages in Injil and Guzara Districts for the potential establishment of Community Fodder Banks.
- Conducted assessments of two cashmere processing companies in Herat City for potential grant support and linking with RADP-West livestock beneficiaries.
- Conducted an assessment of the Herat Cattlemen's Association, which includes members from the Injil, Guzara, Karukh, and Zanda Jan Districts of Herat Province to determine potential areas for grant support.
- Conducted assessments of ten butcher shops and five slaughterhouses/abattoirs with the goal of building their capacity in hygienic meat production and development market linkages in collaboration with the Herat DAIL Livestock and Veterinary Department.
- Followed-up on the status of cashmere sales from livestock beneficiaries to the Sodais Saud Cashmere Processing Company. A total of 6,583 kg of cashmere was purchased by this cashmere processing company as a result of deals signed during events led by RADP-West



and the Herat, Badghis, and Farah DAIL Departments during the months of February and March.

### **Enabling Environment Programming**

- Reviewed and provided feedback to the subcontractor Sayara for the following six constraint analyses:
  - Constraint #15: Lack of Access to High Quality Livestock Inputs/Services
  - Constraint #16: Lack of Electricity for Agribusiness Operations and Expansion
  - Constraint #17: Lack of Supportive Business Environment for Establishment and Registration of Agribusinesses
  - Constraint #18: Lack of Quality Control
  - Constraint #19: Lack of Access to Property Rights and Land Tenure
  - Constraint #20: Lack of Markets
- In collaboration with the Herat DAIL, RADP-West conducted a Business-to-Business Matchmaking Event for regional farmers and agribusinesses in Herat City, which resulted in the signing of 54 memoranda of understanding (MOUs) between buyers and suppliers.
- Participated in the Herat Industrial Exhibition through the support of ten booths—eight for Herat-based agribusinesses, one for Farah Greenhouse Products, and one for Badghis Agricultural and Livestock Products. The event resulted in preliminary discussions and agreements between several businesses, and a total of AFN 87,455 in product sales.
- Provided concept note support for three Private Seed Enterprises as they developed concept notes for the production and marketing of certified vegetable seeds (tomato, eggplant, onion, okra, pepper) and production training for beneficiary farmers.
- Conducted two, full-day food safety trainings for 21 male beneficiaries from Badghis Province and 21 female beneficiaries from Farah Province; these beneficiaries are involved in pistachio and vegetable processing.

### **Subcontractor Highlights**

In compliance with the terms of the Termination for Convenience Notification issued by USAID on May 31, 2016, RADP-West will work with each of its subcontractors to finalize activities and terminate subcontracts as soon as possible.

**AREA (Badghis):** During the month of May, AREA continued its activities in accordance with their second task order. The details of these trainings are included in the updates under 3.1 Wheat Value Chain Programming, 3.2 High Value Crops Value Chain Programming, and 3.5.1 Gender and Nutrition Programming.

**Equal Access (EA) (Herat, Farah, Badghis):** During the month of May, EA continued activities under its approved Concept Note for Year Two. Major activities undertaken during the month included the following:

- **Photography Training:** Per the approved Work Plan, EA conducted Photography Training in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces during the month of May. The purpose of these trainings was to improve the skills and capacity of RADP-West, KIP, and DAIL staff in photography best practices, shooting techniques and angles, photo composition, and common mistakes. The training included a practical component,



*Participants in the Photography Training review photos taken using new techniques*

where participants were able to practice taking indoor and outdoor photos using the techniques discussed during the training. A total of 12 DAIL staff and two RADP-West staff attended the training in Farah Province on May 24, 2016; 15 DAIL staff, three DCA staff, ten AREA staff, and two RADP-West staff attended the training in Badghis Province on May 26, 2016; and six DAIL staff, five DCA staff, and nine RADP-West staff attended the training in Herat Province on May 31, 2016. The Badghis DAIL Director participated in the training and shared that *“Media plays a vital role in each society because it is the main source of information which updates people on what is going on around them. Photography is also a part of delivering information to viewers or the higher authorities. Many times we planned to make an agriculture magazine or at least posters to deliver our messages to our farmers, but unfortunately our staff lacks the capacity. I personally participated in the training and found it very useful for our staff as it will help them take good quality photos and strengthen their capacity.”*

- **Support for Herat Industrial Exhibition:** EA worked with RADP-West staff during the month to develop and design six brochures for the Herat Industrial Exhibition, which took place May 17-20, 2016 in Herat City. These brochures were used at the booths of six Private Seed Enterprises to advertise their products and services.

**Baseline and Control Data Survey:** The RADP-West Program Management Unit (PMU) has almost finalized negotiations with a local subcontractor to complete the Baseline and Control Data Survey. Once budget negotiations are complete, the PMU will proceed with executing the subcontract.<sup>3</sup>

**International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) (Farah):** ICARDA, a collaborative partner listed in the RADP-West technical proposal, was selected to replace Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) for Wheat and HVC production activities in Farah Province. Contracting Officer consent was received on February 1, 2016, with the scope of work (SOW) and budget discussions being led by the RADP-West PMU. Chemonics has been in final discussions with ICARDA to finalize an IQS and Task Order for activities in Farah.<sup>4</sup>

**Sayara Strategies:** Sayara continued work under its Fixed Price Subcontract during the month, submitting six draft constraint analyses. RADP-West provided feedback to Sayara, with revised submissions expected by early June.

**Rural Development Associate Services Organization (RDASO) (Herat Province):** RDASO was selected to establish six Orchard DTCs in the Injil and Guzara Districts of Herat Province in support of RADP-West’s High Value Crop activities. During the month of May, RADP-West worked with RDASO to address several technical issues with the orchards prior to handover to the farmers.

**Master Trainer Subcontracts (Herat Province):** GAALO and Dynamic Vision commenced training in Herat Province under their respective subcontracts. The details of these trainings are included in the updates under 3.2 High Value Crops Value Chain Programming and 3.5.1 Gender and Nutrition Programming.

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<sup>3</sup> The selected subcontractor was notified during the month of June that the baseline survey would no longer move forward.

<sup>4</sup> ICARDA was notified during the month of June that the subcontract would no longer move forward.

## 3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

### 3.1 Wheat Value Chain Programming

#### **Wheat Harvest/Post-Harvest Training:**

During the month of May, the RADP-West Wheat Team trained 210 male beneficiaries from seven villages in Injil (3) and Karukh (4) Districts on the following topics: 1) Wheat Harvest; 2) Time of Harvest; 3) Method of Harvest; 4) Threshing Methods; 5) Cleaning Methods; 6) Wheat Storage Practices; 7) PICS Bags; and 8) Wheat Loss Factors (Pest Control). AREA conducted wheat harvest/post-harvest training in Badghis Province, reaching 112 male farmers from two villages in Qadis, two villages in Qala-I-Naw, two villages in Ab Kamari, and one village in Muqur District. Topics included 1) New Wheat Cultivation Technologies; 2) Wheat Management Practices; and 3) Improved Post-Harvest Handling Techniques.



*Wheat Farmers ask questions during training in Qafaslan village, Injil District; 26May16*

**Table 3: Farmers Receiving Wheat Training in Herat and Badghis Provinces**

#	Province	District	Village	# of Farmers Trained	Training Date
1	Herat	Injil	Maladan	30	24-May-16
2			Qafaslan	30	26-May-16
3			Saleh Abad	30	30-May-16
4		Karukh	Chalistan	30	22-May-16
5			Arghawan Shah	30	23-May-16
6			Payeh Mahala	30	25-May-16
7			Mahala Moh Azam Khan	30	30-May-16
8	Badghis	Qadis	Omar Baik Ha	40	02-May-16
9			Sultan Ha	30	09-May-16
10		Muqur	Zad Nasser	42	04-May-16
Total				322	

#### **Coordination with Herat DAIL and Private Seed Enterprises:**

In order to verify locations and commence preliminary inspections of wheat crops, RADP-West conducted visits of foundation wheat plots with the Herat DAIL and the Shaikhul Islam Seed Company in the Saleh Abad village of Injil District. Twenty-seven plots were selected for inspection out of 1,200 foundation wheat plots total, during which DAIL representatives spoke with farmers about guidelines for weeding, irrigation, fertilizer usage, and pest control. RADP-



*RADP-West personnel participate in a joint inspection of foundation wheat plots in Saleh Abad Village, Injil District*



West expects DAIL issuance of certification for foundations seeds during the month of September.

**Assessment of New Flour Mill in Herat Province:** On May 25, 2016, RADP-West visited the Barakat Hariwa Flour Mill Company, which is located in the Herat Industrial Park in Guzara District. Established in 2015, this company is AISA-registered and produces flour to sell in the local market, as well as a few national markets. Its production capacity is 120-150 MT of flour in 24 hours. The company does not yet have a business plan, marketing plan, or a proper financial system since it is newly established. Lack of access to finance, machinery, and storage are the key issues cited by this company. RADP-West briefed the company on its Wheat Seed Multiplication Program and encouraged the company to apply for a grant for RADP-West support. Barakat expressed interest in purchasing surplus wheat seed from RADP-West beneficiary farmers in Herat Province, but stated that they do not wish to work with thousands of individual farmers and would instead prefer to purchase a large amount from a smaller group of representative farmers. RADP-West is working with its lead farmers to identify a potential system of collection points.

### Major Activities Planned for Wheat Value Chain Programming Next Month

- Continue Wheat Harvest/Post-Harvest training in target districts of Herat Province.
- Coordinate with the eight Private Seed Enterprises from the November 2015 Wheat Seed Multiplication Program and the DAIL Departments to organize the sale of foundation and certified wheat seed back to these enterprises after the June/July harvest.
- Continue collaboration with flour mills in Herat Province for the purchase of surplus certified wheat seed from RADP-West beneficiaries after the June/July harvest.
- Coordinate with the Farah DAIL Department and the Asim Salim Farahi Private Seed and Agricultural Services Company to distribute the remaining wheat seed and fertilizer to 45 farmers in Farah Center District.

## 3.2 High Value Crops Value Chain Programming



*RADP-West personnel conduct inspections of vegetable plots*

### Vegetables:

**Inspection of Cultivated Vegetable Plots:** During the month of May, RADP-West continued the inspection of vegetable plots to ensure that all vegetables were growing as expected, and to provide advice to farmers on weeding, irrigation, and other technical issues. RADP-West inspected 150 vegetable plots in Herat and recorded the GPS locations of each in Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, and Koshk Districts. During these inspections, RADP-West observed that some squash

plots were infected with a disease in three villages (Ordo Bagh, Ghol Nazir, and Gul Bafa) of Guzara District in Herat Province. To assist farmers in the identification of the disease, RADP-West collected a sample of an infected plant and delivered it to the Herat DAIL Plant Protection Department's laboratory in Herat City for diagnosis; the Herat DAIL successfully diagnosed the disease (a virus) and the aphid pest, and provided a prescription with guidance for the farmers. AREA also conducted inspections of cultivated vegetable plots in Badghis Province during the month, inspecting 33 plots in Qadis, Qala-I-Naw, and Ab Kamari Districts. The purpose of the inspections was also to ensure that vegetables were growing properly, and to provide advice to farmers on weeding, irrigation, and technical issues. No major issues were identified during the inspections.

**Vegetable Seedling Distribution Program:** Following the distribution of tomato, eggplant, and sweet pepper seedlings to 162 male farmers during the month of April in Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, and Koshk Districts, the remaining 196 farmers in Karukh District received their tomato and eggplant seedlings, as Karukh has a colder climate compared with the other districts and must transplant their seedlings at a later time.

#### **Horticulture Management Training:**

GAALO, the master trainer subcontractor responsible for training 1,250 vegetable farmers (180 female and 1,070 male) in six districts of Herat (Guzara, Injil, Karukh, Koshk, Pashtun Zarghun and Shindand) commenced training activities during the month of May. In total, GAALO trained 723 male farmers in Injil, (207), Guzara (208), Karukh (215), Pashtun Zarghun (33), Koshk (30), and Shindand (30) Districts. Training topics included irrigation, weed control, soil enrichment, compost preparation, and fertilizer application. The trainings were divided into distinct theoretical and practical components, with practical training conducted on established vegetable DTCs and farmers' vegetable plots.



*GAALO conducts horticulture management training in Qala Shorbat, Karukh District; 29May16*

**Table 4: Horticulture Management Training**

#	Province	District	Village	# of Farmers Trained	Training Date
1	Herat	Injil	Hendawan Posht Joy	26	22-May-16
2			Turkan Olya	22	22-May-16
3			Del Qarar	23	23-May-16
4			Hendwan Zere Joy	23	23-May-16
5			Jalwarcha	25	23-May-16
6			Gerdab	25	24-May-16
7			Oqab	43	24-May-16
8			Turkan Sufla	20	28-May-16
11		Guzara	Gushmir	26	22-May-16
12			Gul Bafa	47	22-May-16
13			Ordo Bagh	25	23-May-16
14			Char Kabootar Khan	25	23-May-16
15			Deh Taba	20	23-May-16
16			Gholb Nazar	23	24-May-16
17			Akhondom	22	24-May-16

18			Deh Tapa	20	28-May-16
20			Majghandak	45	29-May-16
21			Qala Shorbat	21	29-May-16
22			Dahane Ghar	25	30-May-16
23			Poshte Yakhdan	23	30-May-16
24			Tajik Ha	25	30-May-16
25			Qala Bala	26	31-May-16
26			By Noonha	25	31-May-16
27			Baghi Dasht	25	31-May-16
28		Pashtun Zarghun	Said Abad	33	31-May-16
29		Koshk	Robat Sangi Sufla	30	28-May-16
30		Shindand	Center	30	31-May-16
<b>Total</b>				<b>723</b>	

**Vegetable Demonstration Training Center (DTC) Establishment:** During the month of May, RADP-West, in coordination with the Herat DAIL Department, established ten Vegetable (Tomato) DTC locations in Karukh District of Herat Province. RADP-West provided support to these 10 male lead farmers and 192 vegetable farmer beneficiaries during the months of April and May in the transplanting of seedlings from the row tunnel systems to the main farm land, and is using these training centers to train farmers on a variety of horticulture topics, including land leveling, layout of a demonstration plot, irrigation, weeding, fertilization, and harvest and post-harvest techniques.

**Table 5: Vegetable DTCs Established in May**

#	Province	District	Village	Size of DTC
1	Herat	Karukh	Majghandak X 2	2,000 m <sup>2</sup>
2			Bynon Ha	2,000 m <sup>2</sup>
3			Ghala Sharbat	2,000 m <sup>2</sup>
4			Bagh Dasht	2,000 m <sup>2</sup>
5			Dahan Ghar	2,000 m <sup>2</sup>
6			Ghala Bala	2,000 m <sup>2</sup>
7			Moh. Baik	2,000 m <sup>2</sup>
8			Chalistan	2,000 m <sup>2</sup>
9			Tajik Ha	2,000 m <sup>2</sup>
Total			10	

#### **Orchards:**

**Pistachio Budding Program:** In Herat and Badghis Provinces, pistachio farmers do not have access to certified scions, nor do they possess the technical knowledge necessary to properly bud pistachio saplings. Through this distribution and demonstration program, pistachio farmers will have access to certified scions to graft their saplings. If pistachio saplings are not budded, the first harvest may not occur until after ten to twelve years. However, if the pistachio saplings are budded/grafted, the first harvest may take place in four or five years (i.e. five to seven years earlier than unbudded or ungrafted saplings). During the month of May, RADP-West finalized the selection of saplings according to the following criteria: saplings must be taller than 70 cm and thicker than one cm in diameter (trunk section). RADP-West selected ten male pistachio farmers in Injil (2), Guzara (2), Karukh (2), Pashtun Zarghun (3) and Koshk (1) Districts in Herat Province, who collectively have 2,620 pistachio rootstocks that are proper for budding. RADP-West also selected four male



pistachio farmers in Qadis (2), Qala-I-Naw (1), and Ab Kamari (1) Districts in Badghis Province who collectively have 500 pistachio rootstocks that are proper for budding. In total, 3,120 certified pistachio scions<sup>5</sup> will be distributed to these beneficiary pistachio farmers in Herat and Badghis Provinces during the month of June. RADP-West will work with these farmers during the budding process and monitor the new shoots growing from the bud union while providing advice to the farmers on staking new shoots to prevent breakage and damage from heavy winds.

**Pistachio Orchard Demonstration Training Center (DTC) Establishment:** During the month of May, RADP-West, in coordination with the Farah DAIL Department, established two, 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> Orchard DTCs (Pistachio) in the Farah Center District of Farah Province. RADP-West provided 166 pistachio saplings for each orchard. In Badghis Province, AREA, in coordination with the Badghis DAIL Department, established 18 Orchard DTCs (Pistachio). The design, layout, and hole-digging processes were completed during the month in all 18 locations. One Orchard DTC was established in Muqur District, four in Qadis District, six in Qala-I-Naw District, and seven in Ab Kamari District, with 160 saplings provided for each orchard. The purpose of these orchards is for use as training centers in the future to demonstrate new pistachio practices for orchard growers in Farah and Badghis Provinces.



*Establishment of Pistachio Orchard DTCs in Farah Center District, Farah Province*

**Table 6: Pistachio Orchard DTCs Established in May**

#	Province	District	Village	Size of DTC
1	Farah	Farah Center	Bagh-e-Now	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
2			Essahaqza	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
3	Badghis	Qala-I-Naw	Tagab Ismail	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
4			Mulla Shams	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
5			Charbagh	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
6			Faristan	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
7			Awladi Saboor	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
8			Masjid Jami	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
9		Qadis	Omer Bikha	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
10			Nayibha	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
11			Haji Qurbanha	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Per the Year Two Work Plan, RADP-West originally planned to distribute 3,500 certified pistachio scions to beneficiary farmers in Herat (3,000) and Badghis (500) Provinces. However, during RADP-West's assessment, only enough suitable rootstock for the budding of 3,120 certified pistachio scions (2,620 in Herat and 500 in Badghis) was identified.



12			Khalifa Ayaz	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
13			Pahlawanha	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
14			Dai Zangi	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
15			Aqa Sufi X 2	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
16		Ab Kamari	Qebchaq	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
17			Zingar	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
18			Khanha	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
20		Muqur	Senjitak	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total</b>			<b>20</b>	

**Orchard Management Training:** Dynamic Vision, the master trainer subcontractor responsible for training 700 orchard farmers (including 200 female farmers) in six districts of Herat (Guzara, Injil, Karukh, Koshk, Pashtun Zarghun, and Shindand) commenced training activities during the month of May. In total, Dynamic Vision trained 446 male farmers in Injil (175), Guzara (221), and Pashtun Zarghun (50) Districts of Herat Province. Training topics included irrigation, weed control, soil enrichment, compost preparation, and fertilizer application. The trainings were divided into distinct theoretical and practical components, with practical training conducted on established orchard DTCs or farmers' available orchards. In Badghis Province, AREA also conducted Orchard Management Training, covering the following topics: 1) Orchard establishment; 2) Introduction and cultivation of certified saplings; 3) IPM; 4) Water management; and 5) Improved harvest and post-harvest techniques. A total of 82 male farmers received this training in Qadis (42) and Ab Kamari (40) Districts of Badghis Province.

**Table 7: Orchard Management Training**

#	Province	District	Village	# of Farmers Trained	Training Date
1	Herat	Injil	Naw Badam	25	22-May-16
2			Khosh Rod	25	25-May-16
3			Noqra	25	25-May-16
4			Sofian	25	26-May-16
5			Koshkak	25	27-May-16
4			Kabarzan	50	28-May-16
6		Guzara	Talas	24	22-May-16
7			Mahale Baghbanha	24	23-May-16
8			Khalachan	25	23-May-16
9			Robat Sulaiman	25	23-May-16
10			Dehzaq	25	25-May-16
11			Gulbafa	23	25-May-16
12			Qasre Anbeya	25	26-May-16
13			Morghab	25	26-May-16
14			Korte Sufla	25	31-May-16
15		Pashtun Zarghun	Korte Khawja	25	30-May-16
16			Jez Abad	25	30-May-16
17	Badghis	Qadis	Nayebha and Khalifa Ayaz	42	01-May-16
18		Ab Kamari	Chebchaq	19	03-May-16
19		Ab Kamari	Pahlawanha	21	05-May-16
Total				528	

## Grapes:

**Vineyard Management Training:** Dynamic Vision, the master trainer subcontractor responsible for training 750 grape farmers (including 200 female farmers) in six districts of Herat (Guzara, Injil, Karukh, Koshk, Pashtun Zarghun, and Shindand) commenced training activities during the month of May. In total, Dynamic Vision trained 535 male farmers in Injil (251), Guzara (174), and Pashtun Zarghun (110) Districts of Herat Province. Training topics included proper fertilization and irrigation, cluster constricting, and trellising. The trainings were divided into distinct theoretical and practical components, with practical training conducted on established vineyard DTCs or farmers' available vineyards. In Badghis Province, AREA also conducted Vineyard Management Training, covering the following topics: 1) Vineyard establishment management; 2) Introduction and cultivation of certified vines; 3) IPM; 4) Water management; and 5) Improved harvest and post-harvest techniques. A total of 21 male farmers received this training in Muqur District of Badghis Province.

**Table 8: Vineyard Management Training**

#	Province	District	Village	# of Farmers Trained	Training Date
1	Herat	Injil	Shadi Bara	25	25-May-16
2			Sara Naw	29	26-May-16
3			Katani	25	28-May-16
4			Koshkak	22	28-May-16
5			Gasha	25	29-May-16
6			Maladan	25	29-May-16
7			Shadi Jam	50	29-May-16
8			Nisan	25	29-May-16
9			Nang Abad	25	31-May-16
10		Guzara	Malan	25	24-May-16
11			Koofan	50	24-May-16
12			Ghooran	24	24-May-16
13			Mahale Masjed Jame	25	24-May-16
14			Esfaghan	25	31-May-16
15			Joyan	25	31-May-16
16		Pashtun Zarghun	Char Hayat	30	30-May-16
17			Salimi	50	30-May-16
18			Kondar	30	30-May-16
19	Badghis	Muqur	Kharistan	21	08-May-16
<b>Total</b>				<b>556</b>	

## Major Activities Planned for HVC Value Chain Programming Next Month

- Conduct inspections of the established Vegetable DTCs and vegetable plots in Karukh District of Herat Province, providing technical guidance and advice to farmers.
- Complete the Pistachio Budding Program in Herat and Badghis Province through the distribution of pistachio scions and the budding of 3,120 pistachio rootstocks. Follow-up with farmers to monitor new shoots growing from the bud union and provide technical advice to farmers.
- Conduct a one-day Pistachio Budding Training for 30 pistachio farmers in Badghis Province (at the request of the Badghis DAIL).

### 3.3 Livestock Value Chain Programming

#### **Supporting Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) Paravets**

**New VFU Paravet Selection:** During the month of May, DCA selected three new male paravet candidates from three villages in Injil, Guzara, and Karukh Districts (one candidate from each) in Herat Province. The next six-month session of paravet training is scheduled to commence in June 2016. The aim of this course is to train new paravets for the establishment of new VFUs in RADP-West target districts in 2017.<sup>6</sup> By establishing new VFU paravets in targeted districts, it is expected that farmers will have better access to VFU veterinary and extension services and consequently, animal health and husbandry practices will improve.

**VFU Monitoring:** During the month of May, DCA visited two VFUs located in the Guzara District of Herat Province and the Ab Kamari District of Badghis Province. The objective of this ongoing monitoring effort is to evaluate the overall situation of VFUs, including their access to good quality medicines and vaccines, performance of cold storage, and quality of record-keeping procedures. Monitoring visits also allow DCA staff to provide technical advice as needed to VFU staff. The overall situation of both VFUs was deemed satisfactory as both VFUs were keeping proper records of medicines and vaccines and organizing at least one FEG per month; the farmers also reported satisfaction with the veterinary services provided by these VFUs.

#### **Supporting DAIL Extension Workers**

**DAIL Extension Worker Training:** From May 8-12, 2016, DCA conducted a five-day training course at the DCA Training Center in Herat for 13 male DAIL staff from Herat and Badghis Provinces. The purpose of this training was to enhance the capacity of DAIL staff to provide high quality extension services to livestock farmers. Topics covered during the training included the basics of extension, communication with the farmers, obtaining accurate information from the farmers, techniques of participation, training methods, and the characteristics of a good extension worker. DCA also led a role-play exercise in which the extension workers practiced different communication methods.



*DAIL Extension Workers discuss communication methods and techniques during training*

#### **Supporting Local Female Extension Workers (LFEWs)**

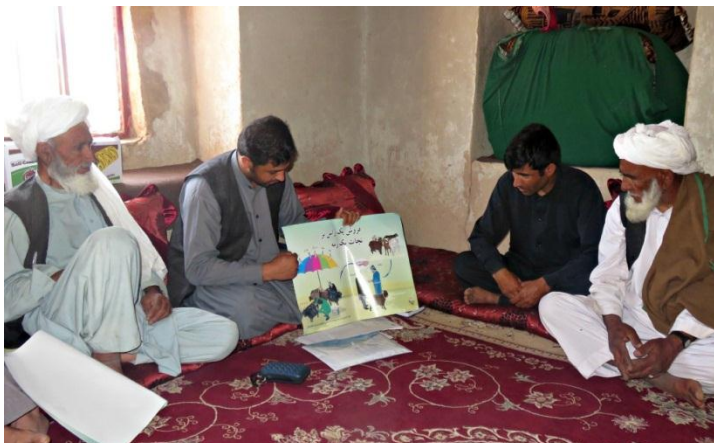
**LFEW Monitoring:** On May 31, 2016, DCA monitored the activities of one LFEW in the Zad Saleh village of Qadis District in Badghis Province. The objective of this ongoing monitoring effort is to evaluate the performance of LFEWs in contributing to the promotion of animal health and hygiene and to provide advice on the provision of quality extension services to female livestock farmers. DCA observed that the performance of the LFEW was satisfactory—the LFEW is conducting monthly meetings with female livestock farmers and providing appropriate guidance and extension messages to female livestock farmers in her village.

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<sup>6</sup> The Paravet Training Course will no longer occur, due to the project's termination.

## **Supporting Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs)**

**FEG Sessions:** During the month of May, DCA extension workers conducted 15 FEG extension sessions for male and female livestock farmers from three districts of Herat Province (Guzara, Karukh, and Koshk) and three districts of Badghis Province (Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, and Ab-Kamari). The purpose of these extension sessions is to disseminate information on livestock disease prevention, control and diagnosis, the importance of vaccines and proper animal treatment, and good feeding practices. DCA achieves this through targeted training and information sharing relevant to the season and each FEG's



*DCA conducts an FEG meeting in the Do Ab village of Koshk District in Herat Province; 24May16*

geographic location. DCA also helps link these groups with VFUs. Topics covered during these 15 sessions included lamb fattening, vaccination, stable management, ecto-parasites, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) disease, feeding, watering, milking, and the processing of animal products.

**New FEGs:** During the month of May, three FEGs (one female, two male) were established in two districts of Herat Province (Guzara and Pashtun Zarghun) and one district of Badghis Province (Qala-I-Naw). These new groups comprise a total of 21 female livestock farmers and 45 male livestock farmers.

## **Supporting Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**

### **SHG Training:**

- From May 8-12, 2016, DCA conducted a five-day training course in the Khalifa Ayaz village of Qadis District in Badghis Province for 30 male SHG members. The purpose of the training was to encourage participants to start their own small businesses and empower participants to utilize their own resources in more effective ways in order to increase their incomes and improve their livelihoods.
- During the month of May, DCA conducted four recordkeeping trainings in three villages of Injil and Koshk Districts (Herat Province) and one village of Qadis District (Badghis Province). DCA explained the purpose and importance of record-keeping, and demonstrated some simple calculations during this two-hour training. A total of 106 male and 23 female SHG members attended these trainings.

**SHG Monitoring:** During the month of May, DCA visited six SHGs (five female, one male) in two villages of Injil and Karukh Districts (Herat Province) and three villages of Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, and Ab Kamari Districts (Badghis Province). The purpose of these visits was to encourage SHG members to collect money to start running a livestock business and evaluate the overall performance of SHG members. In total, these six SHGs, comprised of 136 female members and 30 male members, have collected AFN 293,540. The SHG located in the Qala-e-Sharbat village of Karukh District in Herat Province has invested their savings in the purchase of 27 lambs for lamb fattening; after properly housing and feeding the lambs, this female SHG will sell the lambs and share the profits.

## **Livestock Product Sales Records**

During the month of May, DCA collected the livestock product sales records from beneficiary livestock farmers in six villages of four districts in Herat Province (Injil, Koshk, Karukh, Pashtun Zarghun) and ten villages of three districts in Badghis Province (Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, Ab Kamari). Sales made by 119 male and 227 female livestock farmers were recorded; these sales will be checked and consolidated during the month of June for reporting against RADP-West's sales indicators.

## **Establishment of Community Fodder Banks**

In order to address the lack of animal feed and subsequent livestock malnourishment during winter months, DCA is planning to establish two Community Fodder Banks within target districts of Herat and Badghis Provinces. During the month of May, DCA conducted assessments of two villages in Injil and Guzara Districts (Herat Province) for the potential establishment of a Community Fodder Bank. These villages were cross-checked with pre-developed criteria aimed to assess the lack of fodder in the winter, the willingness of community members to purchase feed and/or grow fodder crops, the community's dependence on livestock and agriculture, the number of animals, the community's access to the market, and the availability of transportation. The results of the assessments showed that, while both villages were suitable for the establishment of fodder banks, they did not have a building or structure for the storage of fodder.

## **Additional Activities**

In addition to the main activities detailed above, DCA promoted private sector extension by encouraging and facilitating additional activities through VFUs and LFEWs.

**VFU Services:** The 15 existing and eight new VFUs supported by RADP-West treated 16,690 sheep and goats and vaccinated 41,236 sheep and goats in targeted districts of Herat and Badghis Provinces during the month of May. These VFUs, as privately owned businesses, charge a fee to the livestock farmers for the provision of each vaccination; the vaccinations are not provided or funded by RADP-West.

**Extension Sessions by VFU Paravets:** VFUs conducted 18 FEG sessions for male livestock farmers in targeted districts in Herat and Badghis Provinces during the month of May. These FEG sessions covered the topics of anthrax, Newcastle disease, enterotoxaemia, foot and mouth disease (FMD), endo-parasites, ecto-parasites, and the importance of vaccines.

**Extension Sessions by LFEWs:** During the month of May, the 33 LFEWs trained by RADP-West conducted 33 FEG sessions for female farmers in targeted districts of Herat and Badghis Provinces. These FEG sessions covered the topics of housing, identifying the first signs of sickness, poultry husbandry, taking care of newborn animals, helping with birth/delivery, milking, cashmere, zoonotic diseases, the difference between medicine and vaccines, feeding, watering, and marketing.

**Deworming Campaigns:** VFU Paravets trained by DCA conducted eight Deworming Campaigns during the month of May, treating a total of 10,395 sheep and goats. These campaigns aim to address internal parasites present within the herds, which is a key concern of regional slaughterhouses, cashmere processors, and dairy



*One of RADP-West's VFUs conducts a deworming campaign in the Togchi village of Qadis Province; 04May16*



processors. By addressing this concern through deworming campaigns, the yields and quality of meat, wool, and dairy products will improve.

**Table 9: Deworming Campaigns in Herat and Badghis Provinces**

#	Province	District	Village	Date of Campaign
1	Herat	Injil	Qala Farahi Ha	19-May-16
2		Karukh	Darwish Qaseem	04-May-16
3		Koshk	Chel Dokhtar	08-May-16
4		Pashtun Zarghun	Manzel	25-May-16
5	Badghis	Qadis	Togchi	04-May-16
6			Haji Ab Hakim	08-May-16
7		Qala-I-Naw	Bagh Lazad Morad	16-May-16
8		Ab Kamari	Mahmaka Suliman	23-May-16

### **Value Chain Facilitation Activities**

**Cashmere Processing Company Assessments:** During the month of May, RADP-West, in collaboration with the Herat DAIL Livestock and Veterinary Service Department, conducted assessments of two cashmere processing companies: 1) Zeyaratjah Trading Cashmere Company, Herat City (May 9); and 2) Jawaheran Cashmere Company, Herat City (May 12). The purpose of these assessments was to identify areas for potential RADP-West support to improve the quality of cashmere and subsequently, its value in the export market. RADP-West found that the Zeyaratjah Trading Cashmere Company had a business plan and simple bookkeeping system in place, which were being followed and used by the company's employees. However, the company did not have the financial resources to add a new line for cashmere de-hairing and processing. The Jawaheran Cashmere Company did not have a business plan and was using a poor accounting system. They also suffered losses last year after purchasing raw cashmere and exporting it to China, where there was insufficient market demand. RADP-West will work with both companies to identify specific support so that they may improve their cashmere products and increase profitability. RADP-West will also connect these processors with its beneficiary livestock farmers in Herat and Badghis Provinces for collaboration during future cashmere harvest seasons.<sup>7</sup>

**Assessment of Herat Cattle Association:** On May 24, 2016, RADP-West conducted an assessment of the Herat Cattlemen's Association, which has 64 members owning between 10-300 cows each in Injil, Guzara, Karukh, and Zanda Jan Districts<sup>8</sup>. The association established an Animal Pharmacy in 2015 for the provision of medical services, rations, and capacity development for its members. The association also has 20 dairy sales agents in Herat City for sale to individual consumers, and members of the association sell approximately 1,200 kg of milk per day to the Herat Dairy and Ice Cream, Herat Dairy Union, and retailers. The Herat Cattlemen's Association faces a lack of access to equipment and milk processing machinery, as well as a lack of modern storage for making and storing silage. RADP-West encouraged this association to apply for support under RADP-West's Grants Program.

<sup>7</sup> Due to RADP-West's termination, this activity will no longer move forward.

<sup>8</sup> Zanda Jan District is not a RADP-West target district.

**Assessment of Herat Butchers and Slaughterhouses (Abattoirs):** From May 16-18, 2016, RADP-West conducted assessments of ten butchers and five slaughterhouses/abattoirs with the goal of building their capacity in hygienic meat production and developing market linkages in collaboration with the Herat DAIL Livestock and Veterinary Department. General findings from the assessments are as follows:

- Most of the butchers and slaughterhouses use simple packaging.
- More than 96% of slaughterhouses do not have refrigerators or freezers for storage of their products. As such, slaughterhouses try to sell all of their products during the day.
- All butchers slaughter their animals (goat, sheep, cow, camel) at the Sardar Mohammad Dawood Khan Abattoir.
- All butchers purchase their products from the Sardar Mohammad Dawood Khan Abattoir.
- All butchers carry their products from the abattoir to the butchery in an uncovered tuk tuk (rickshaw).



*RADP-West personnel conduct an assessment of a butcher shop in Herat; 18May16*

Challenges cited by the butchers and slaughterhouses included the lack of access to refrigerators and freezers; lack of access to technical packaging and toolkits; lack of availability of hygienic packaging; lack of access to sustainable energy and standard butchery shops; the long distance between the abattoir and the Animal Stock Market; the high price of animals; lack of access to a standard vehicle to safely transfer meat from the abattoir to the butchery; lack of access to modern machinery; and a shortage of water for drinking and washing. RADP-West will initiate discussions with the Badghis DAIL and USAID on how best to provide support for these butchers and slaughterhouses, potentially through in-kind grant support.

**Follow-Up—Cashmere Sales to Cashmere Processing Company:** RADP-West followed up with those farmers who signed agreements with the Sodais Saud Cashmere Processing Company during the months of February and March. During the month of May, RADP-West collected information confirming that the processing company purchased a total of 6,583 kg of cashmere (6.5 MT) from RADP-West beneficiary livestock farmers in four villages of Qadis District and one village of Qala-I-Naw District in Badghis Province, and from one village of Injil District, two villages of Guzara District, one village of Koshk District, one village of Karukh District, and two villages of Pashtun Zarghun District in Herat Province. RADP-West expects to report the full sales data during the next reporting period.

### Major Activities Planned for Livestock Value Chain Programming Next Month

- Complete distribution of equipment of the eight new VFUs in Herat and Badghis Provinces, inclusive of solar and electric refrigerators, motorbikes, and VFU equipment.
- Per the Termination for Convenience Notification received on May 31, 2016 and discussions with USAID, all other Livestock Department activities have been cancelled.



### 3.4 Enabling Environment Programming

**Business-to-Business Matchmaking Event:** On May 10, 2016, RADP-West, in collaboration with the Herat DAIL Department, held a Business-to-Business (B2B) Matchmaking Event for regional farmers and agribusinesses at the Estiqlal Hotel in Herat City. The purpose of this event was to provide a forum for regional buyers and suppliers to meet one another, discuss their product needs and specifications, and forge business deals for the 2016 harvest season. Forty-three producers/cooperatives and 35 buyers/processors from Herat, Kabul, Badghis, and Farah Provinces participated in the event, in addition to exporters, traders, and input suppliers. The range of value chains represented included wheat/cereals, fresh fruits, dried fruits and nuts, raisins/grapes, vegetables, and livestock (dairy and cashmere). During the event, participants were divided into 16 groups, comprised of relevant buyers and suppliers. Buyers discussed their requirements in terms of product quality, quantity, standards, and delivery time, in addition to requirements regarding fruit drying methods and the importance of sorting and grading each product. Suppliers described their products, available volumes, and timing for delivery, and produced samples for the buyers' review. As a result of these discussions, 54 memoranda of understanding were signed between buyers and suppliers for the following products:

- Raisins and Grapes: 7,098 MT
- Fresh Fruits (pomegranate, peaches, apricot, apples): 445 MT
- Dried Fruits and Nuts (pistachio, walnut, jujube, senjed): 245 MT
- Vegetables (pepper, onion, carrot, watermelon, cauliflower, garlic, cucumber, tomato, eggplant, cabbage): 414 MT
- Wheat: 2,060 MT
- Cashmere: 1 MT
- Milk: 5 MT



*Representatives from women's food processors discuss their packaging needs with the Herat Plastic Company; 10May16*

The Herat DAIL Director thanked RADP-West for organizing this B2B event. He stated that this is the first event of its kind in the western region that has brought suppliers (farmers, cooperatives) and buyers (processors, traders, exporters) together, before the harvest season, to secure markets for farmers and produce for buyers. At the conclusion of the event, the Herat DAIL's Agriculture Service Manager emphasized the need for follow-up meetings and delivery of the commitments made by both buyers and suppliers. RADP-West will follow-up with both buyers and suppliers to ensure commitments are carried out during the 2016 harvest season.

One key outcome of the B2B Matchmaking Event was the signing of four MOUs between the Aria Flour Mill and four of the Private Seed Enterprises that received grants from RADP-West as part of the Wheat Seed Multiplication Program in November 2015. Aria is interested in purchasing wheat seed from these Private Seed Enterprises after the June/July harvest. RADP-West will follow-up with Aria and these Private Seed Enterprises to provide support.

**Herat Industrial Exhibition:** From May 17-20, 2016, the Herat Industrial Union hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference and Exhibition Event at the Mowlana Jalaladdin Valkhi Hall in Herat City. This event is one of the leading trade and industry shows in Herat Province, serving to boost trade and increase local and international investment in the province's top quality products. This four-day exhibition

drew 3,200 participants from numerous agricultural sectors, inclusive of importers, exporters, wholesalers, retailers, producers, input suppliers, service providers, and curious citizens. The exhibition allowed participants to showcase their products, participate in B2B networking events, and conduct demonstrations of new technologies. RADP-West reserved one booth for Farah Province participants (Farah Greenhouse Products), one booth for Badghis Province participants (Badghis Agricultural and Livestock Products) and eight booths for Herat-based agribusinesses, including Bano Food Industries, Private Wheat and Vegetable Seed Enterprises, Herat Livestock Development Union, Herat Ice Cream and Dairy Company, Gholami Brothers' Processing and Export Company, Morvarid Food Industry, Injil and Guzara Grape and Raisin Associations, and three woman-owned/operated food processing companies. During the exhibition, a preliminary agreement was signed during the exhibition between two woman-owned/operated food processing companies and the Gholami Brothers' Processing and Export Company for the purchase of five MT of dried vegetables/herbs (mint, spinach, parsley, dill).

**Table 10: Sales Recorded During the Herat Industrial Exhibition**

Agribusiness	Commodities	Day 1 Sales (AFN)	Day 2 Sales (AFN)	Day 3 Sales (AFN)	Day 4 Sales (AFN)	Total
Injil and Guzara District Grape and Raisin Associations	10 different varieties of raisins	3,000	5,200	4,800	5,900	18,900
Herat Livestock Development Union	Milk, Cheese, Butter, Ghee, Quark, Cream, Yogurt	3,500	2,300	6,500	1,830	14,130
Herat Ice Cream and Dairy Company	Yogurt, Ice Cream, Dough	2,000	3,200	5,300	4,033	14,533
Bano Food Industries	Jam, Honey, Pickles	1,600	2,212	2,300	700	6,812
Rabat Pirzadeh Women Food Processing Center	Dried Fruits, Dried Yogurt, Dried Mint, Saffron, Jams, Pickles	300	900	2,100	900	4,200
Kababyan Women Food Processing Center		3,000	4,330	5,600	1,700	14,630
Ziaratjah Women Food Processing Center		3,400	3,700	2,150	5,000	14,250
TOTAL						87,455 <sup>9</sup>

**Follow-Up from Herat Industrial Exhibition:** On May 25, 2016, RADP-West facilitated a B2B meeting between the Gholami Brothers' Processing and Export Company and the Rabat Pirzadeh and Kababyan Women Food Processing Centers; these agribusinesses were introduced to one another during the Herat Industrial Exhibition. During the visit, the Rabat Pirzadeh Women Food Processing Center agreed to provide the following samples to the company: dried leek, parsley, dill, coriander, fenugreek, and spinach. Gholami will check the samples, and if the standard criteria are met, will sign a formal contract with this women's processing center. Gholami communicated the

<sup>9</sup> The standard exchange rate used by RADP-West during the month of May was 1 USD = 68.3 AFN. 87,455 AFN equates to 1,280.45 USD.

following standard criteria for the drying process: 1) The leaves of the vegetables (without their stems) must be dried; 2) Vegetables must be cleaned and washed before drying; 3) Vegetables must be dried in shaded areas; 4) Hygiene issues must be considered before drying. During the visit, it was determined that the Kababyan Women Food Processing Center already met the standard criteria; the company accepted their samples and signed a contract for the purchase of 8 MT of dried vegetables/herbs, including: leek (1,000 kg); parsley (1,500 kg); coriander (3,000 kg); spinach (1,500 kg); and fenugreek (1,000 kg). All of the costs including vegetables/herbs, transportation from the farm to the processing center, special trays for drying the vegetables and herbs, and labor costs will be paid by Gholami; as of May 31, 2016, Gholami has paid Kababyan AFN 40,000.

**Concept Note Support for Regional Seed Enterprises:** Following up on the coaching and mentoring sessions conducted during the month of April, RADP-West provided additional support to three Private Seed Enterprises as they finalized their concept notes for consideration by RADP-West. During the month of May, the Khawja Mohammad Mosafer Private Seed Enterprise (Injil District), Hambastagi Private Seed Enterprise (Guzara District), and Khaja Sabz Posh Private Seed Enterprise (Injil) finalized and submitted concept notes focused on the production and marketing of certified vegetable seeds (tomato, eggplant, onion, okra, pepper) and production training for beneficiary farmers. RADP-West will convene a technical committee to review these concept notes for feasibility and potential support during the month of June.<sup>10</sup>

**Food Safety Training in Badghis and Farah Provinces:** On May 31, 2016, RADP-West conducted two full-day Food Safety Trainings for 21 male beneficiaries from Badghis Province and 21 female beneficiaries from Farah Province; these beneficiaries are involved in pistachio and vegetable processing. Both trainings covered the following topics: 1) General Hygiene Practices; 2) Food Safety Standards; and 3) Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). The training in Badghis Province also covered a section on aflatoxin and how to keep pistachios safe from this toxic compound produced by mold. During the trainings, participants learned how to keep packing areas clean and the importance of using clean water when washing fruits and vegetables.

**Cooperative Business Plan Submissions:** Following up on the Cooperative By-Law/Business Plan Development Workshops conducted during the months of January and February in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces, RADP-West contacted the businesses to inquire about the status of their business plan submissions to DAIL and MAIL. In Farah Province, one cooperative (the Sedaqat Women's Cooperative) was able to finalize their draft business plan and submit it to the DAIL office for review. One cooperative from Badghis Province, the Khaja Charom Langar Sharif Cooperative, traveled to Herat Province on May 9, 2016 to work with RADP-West on finalizing its business plan. Two cooperatives in Herat (the Ulfat Livestock Cooperative and the Insaf Agriculture Cooperative) have been successful in submitting their business plans to MAIL; the remaining two Herat cooperative business plans are pending review by the Herat DAIL Cooperative Department. RADP-West will continue to follow-up and provide support to these cooperatives, as a viable business plan is needed in order to renew cooperative licenses with MAIL; these cooperatives play an active role in the receipt and sale of wheat, HVC, and livestock products to regional agribusinesses within RADP-West target districts.

### Major Activities Planned for Enabling Environment Programming Next Month

- Continue preparations, in coordination with the Herat DAIL Office, for the upcoming Agriculture Fair in Herat, scheduled for July 26-28, 2016.
- Finalize the six constraint analyses reports from Sayara, for onward submission to RADP-South by June 10, 2016.

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<sup>10</sup> During the month of June, all applicants were informed that all applications and concept notes would no longer move forward.

- In collaboration with DAIL through a joint distribution and demonstration, provide requested tools and packaging materials for ten raisin houses in Herat Province to improve their products and profitability in the local market.

## 3.5 Cross-Cutting Themes

### 3.5.1 Gender and Nutrition Programming

**Wheat Harvest/Post-Harvest Training for Female Beneficiaries:** During the month of May, AREA conducted wheat harvest/post-harvest training in Badghis province for 42 female beneficiaries from one village in Qadis (21) and one village in Muqur District (21). AREA female trainers covered the following topics with female beneficiaries: threshing and cleaning techniques, storage practices and climatic conditions, wheat loss factors (such as insects, birds, rodents, and mold), food security, and nutrition awareness.

**Table 11: Wheat Harvest/Post-Harvest Training for Female Beneficiaries**

#	Province	District	Village	# of Farmers Trained	Training Date
1	Badghis	Qadis	Omer Baik	21	02-May-16
2		Muqur	Sang-e-Zard	21	03-May-16
Total				42	

**Horticulture Management Training for Female Beneficiaries:** During the month of May, GAALO trained 21 female farmers in the Sara Now village of Injil District and 20 female farmers in the Robat Solaiman village of Guzara District. The training in Injil District took place on May 28, 2016 and the training in Guzara District took place on May 26, 2016. Training topics included irrigation, weed control, soil enrichment, compost preparation, and fertilizer application. The trainings were divided into distinct theoretical and practical components, with practical training conducted on established vegetable DTCs and farmers' vegetable plots.

**Orchard Management Training for Female Beneficiaries:** During the month of May, Dynamic Vision conducted Orchard Management Training for 30 female beneficiaries in the Sawa village of Injil District. The training took place on May 22, 2016. Training topics included irrigation, weed control, soil enrichment, compost preparation, and fertilizer application. The trainings were divided into distinct theoretical and practical components, with practical training conducted on established orchard DTCs or farmers' available orchards.

**Improved Techniques for High Value Crops Training:** During the month of May, AREA trained 21 female beneficiaries in Improved Techniques for High Value Crops. The training took place on May 3, 2016 in the Dai Zangi village of Ab Kamari District.

**Vineyard Management Training:** During the month of May, Dynamic Vision trained 95 farmers in Injil (71) and Guzara (24) Districts of Herat Province. Training topics included proper fertilization and irrigation, cluster constricting, and trellising. The trainings were divided into distinct theoretical and practical components, with practical training conducted on established vineyard DTCs or farmers' available vineyards.

**Table 12: Vineyard Management Training**

#	Province	District	Village	# of Farmers Trained	Training Date
1	Herat	Injil	Rabat Darwish	26	22-May-16
2			Urdo Khan	20	23-May-16
3			Shadi Barg	25	24-May-16
5		Guzara	Morghab	24	26-May-16
Total				95	

**Nutrition and Food Security Awareness Training:** On May 4, 2016, AREA conducted nutrition and food security awareness training for 20 female farmers in the Salam By village of Qala-I-Naw District in Badghis Province. Topics covered during the training included: 1) Promotion of food security resilience; 2) Importance of crop variety; and 3) Types of nutrients in regional crops.

### Major Activities Planned for Gender and Nutrition Next Month

- Continue preparations for the upcoming Women's Preparatory Workshop, scheduled for June 13-16, 2016, and the follow-on Women Engagement in Agriculture Technology and Value Chain conference scheduled for July 20-21, 2016.

### 3.5.2 Grants Programming

**Concept Notes Evaluated:** RADP-West established a technical evaluation committee to review and evaluate nine concept notes on May 17 and 24, 2016. The technical evaluation committee reviewed the concept notes and found two technically acceptable; the technical team will conduct a site visit for the first company and hold a discussion meeting with the second company prior to inviting these applicants to submit full applications for consideration. For those applicants who were not rolled to the full application process, RADP-West provided reasons for the rejection, and encouraged them to re-apply with new concepts that more closely align with RADP-West's objectives under the Year Two Work Plan.

**Full Applications Under Review:** RADP-West worked to finalize two full applications during the month of May, as follows:

- **Pioneer Support and Service:** RADP-West is in the process of conducting the pre-award risk assessment and finalizing the budget for this company's application. Comments have been sent to this applicant for consideration in the resubmission. Under this application, Pioneer Support and Service plans to provide greenhouses in Injil District (Herat Province), promote off-season vegetable cultivation, demonstrate good agricultural practices, and develop a training manual on greenhouse agriculture.
- **Welfare and Support Afghan Women Disable Organization (WSAWDO):** RADP-West conducted a check of the identified villages in WSAWDO's application, concluding that the villages in Farah are not secure. Internal discussions are underway to determine whether the villages should be replaced. In addition, RADP-West requested that the proposed greenhouses in Shindand District be relocated to areas within the district with access to an existing well for irrigation water, as there will be no construction of new wells during RADP-West's duration. Under this application, WSAWDO plans to establish greenhouses and orchards as well as provide capacity development in Shindand District (Herat Province) and in Farah Center, Pusht Rod, and Anar Dara Districts (Farah Province).

**Full Application Workshop:** On May 25, 2016, RADP-West conducted a Full Application Workshop for nine representatives from six Herat-based agribusinesses; RADP-West has approved the concept notes for these six agribusinesses, and they are in the process of preparing their full

applications. During the workshop, RADP-West briefed the participants on how to prepare a full application, and discussed issues for consideration by each of the companies as they prepare their final submissions.

**Concept Note Workshop:** On May 31, 2016, RADP-West conducted a Concept Note Workshop for one interested applicant. During the workshop, RADP-West explained the Annual Program Statement's objectives and the grants lifecycle. A concept note template was distributed and instructions were provided on how to complete and submit the concept note.

**Morvarid Food Industries Grant:** On May 10, 2016, Morvarid Food Industries participated in the B2B Matchmaking Event held at the Estiqlal Hotel in Herat City. During this event, Morvarid signed preliminary agreements with three individual farmers and four associations for the purchase of dried fruits and nuts, per the terms of its grant agreement with RADP-West. Morvarid also finalized the packaging design and provided RADP-West with the final images for printing.

### Major Activities Planned for Grants Programming Next Month

- In consideration of the Termination for Convenience Notification received on May 31, 2016, inform all applicants that concept notes and full applications will no longer move forward. Begin proceedings to either modify or terminate the ongoing grant for Morvarid Food Industries.

## 4. PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

### 4.1 USAID and non-USAID Funded Projects

Please see Executive Summary for information on the submission of constraint analysis reports.

### 4.2 Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

RADP-West continued its regular collaboration with the DAILs in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces during the month, which is reflected in the detailed text above under each CLIN. Such collaboration included joint foundation wheat plot assessments, coordinated establishment of Vegetable and Orchard DTCs, training for DAIL Extension Workers from Herat and Badghis Provinces, assessments of cashmere processing companies, butcher shops, and slaughterhouses in Herat Province, and coordination during the B2B Matchmaking Event and Herat Industrial Exhibition. DAIL Extension Workers in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces were also invited and encouraged to attend all RADP-West trainings.

## 5. ANNEXES

### 5.1 May 2016 Beneficiaries

See attached Excel file.

### 5.2 May 2016 Monthly JPEG Photos

See attached Zip file.